ER 3-0867

Dear Lefty:

    I refer to your letter of July 1 requesting for ONE copies of (a) briefing papers for the Secretary for his recent talks with Messrs. Eden and Schuman and minutes of the talks themselves, and (b) minutes of the recent conference with Mr. Letourneau. You also request that arrangements be made to forward papers of this kind in the future without the necessity of a special request from CIA.

    In responding to this request the Department has found it necessary to draw a distinction between briefing papers and reports of negotiations themselves. As a general rule, and bearing in mind that exceptions may be warranted in either category, the Department's position is that briefing papers should not be released to CIA (or other agencies not involved in the negotiations) but that records of the talks should be. The basis for this position is that, in the first category, the value of the papers to intelligence is relatively small and their policy and tactical content dictate a distribution limited very strictly to those having a need-to-know; whereas in the second category, the reverse is true.

    In accordance with these principles, every effort is made to keep CIA abreast of the results of high level negotiations through the forwarding of copies of telegrams and reports to CIA by the Executive Secretariat, which has standing instructions to take into account the needs of CIA in determining distribution lists.

    With regard to the specific materials requested in your letter, I am informed that telegraphic reports on the conferences mentioned were forwarded to CIA at the time of their receipt in or transmission from the Department, and that the fuller, written report of the Letourneau talks was forwarded in the last day or so. The full report of the talks with Eden and Schuman will be forwarded as soon as it has been completed. The briefing papers requested cannot be released, for the reasons stated above.

                          Sincerely yours,

                              Fisher Howe,
                              Acting.

Mr. Loftus E. Becker
    Deputy Director, Intelligence
        Central Intelligence Agency